

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

The Upper Tennessee River Roundtable will host a public meeting to present the draft version of the revised water quality improvement plan for reducing excessive sediment accumulation within the Guest River (Wise County, VA) and fecal bacteria contamination within the following tributaries of the Guest River: Crab Orchard Creek, Sepulcher Creek, Little Toms Creek, and Toms Creek. The public meeting will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Norton Community Center located at 201 East Park Avenue NE, Norton, VA from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The back-up date in case the meeting is cancelled due to bad weather is March 10<sup>th</sup> (same location and time).

The development of this plan is required by Virginia's 1997 Water Quality Monitoring, Information, and Restoration Act (§62.1-44.19:4 through 19:8 of the Code of Virginia).

The public meeting provides an opportunity for citizens and interested parties to ask questions, provide comments, and will begin a 30 day period during which written public comments on the plan will be accepted. The draft water quality improvement plan will be available on DEQ's website the day after the public meeting at the following website location:

<http://www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/PublicNotices.aspx>

The Guest River does not meet Virginia's general standard for water quality, due to an excessive accumulation of sand, silt, and clay on the streambed that is harmful to aquatic life. Fecal bacteria levels (e.g. *E. coli*) in Crab Orchard Creek, Sepulcher Creek, Little Toms Creek, and Toms Creek exceed state water quality standards designed to protect primary contact recreation (e.g. swimming, wading, kayaking, etc.). Due to these water quality impairments, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for *E. coli* and sediment have been developed by DEQ. A TMDL describes the amount of pollution that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. The sediment TMDL study for the Guest River was completed in 2003 and the

TMDL study for fecal bacteria in the Guest River tributaries listed above was completed in 2004. These studies can be located on DEQ's website at: <http://www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/ApprovedTMDLReports.aspx>

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** The public comment period on the materials presented at the public meeting will extend from March 3, 2014 to April 3, 2014.

Please contact Adam Wells, Guest River Coordinator with questions about the public meeting (phone: 276-926-5527; email: [guestriverproject@gmail.com](mailto:guestriverproject@gmail.com)). Comments or questions associated with the draft water quality improvement plan for the Guest River watershed should be addressed to Patrick Lizon, TMDL/Watershed Field Coordinator with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality at 355-A Deadmore Street, Abingdon, VA 24210, email address: [patrick.lizon@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:patrick.lizon@deq.virginia.gov), phone # (276) 676-4803.